

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended for better clarity. Reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0235261 to Konishi et al. ("Konishi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in the May 23, 2005 Amendment, Konishi does not qualify as a prior art reference. In particular, Konishi has a filing date of February 12, 2004. However, the present application claims benefits of a priority document, JP 2003-062820 that is filed March 10, 2003. Thus, the present application has a priority date earlier than the filing date of Konishi.

An accurate translation of the priority document is submitted herewith to perfect the claim of priority. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application 2001/0011736 to Dierickx ("Dierickx") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,178 to Shizukuishi ("Shizukuishi"); and rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application 2002/0167030 to Miida ("Miida") in view of Shizukuishi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Dierickx and Miida do not disclose or suggest an insulated-gate clear transistor that discharges, during a discharging period, the carriers accumulated in the accumulation region and that these charges, during an accumulation period, spilled carriers that exceed a capacity of the accumulation region; but asserts that Shizukuishi discloses this feature.

However, Shizukuishi does not disclose or suggest an insulated-gate clear transistor that discharges, during a discharging period, the carriers accumulated in the accumulation region and that discharges, during an accumulation period, spilled carriers that exceed a capacity of the accumulation region, the accumulation period being a time period in which carriers are accumulated in the accumulation region up to the capacity of the accumulation region, as recited in claims 1-3.

Shizukuishi discloses discharging charges that have accumulated in a photodiode. See col. 9, lines 51-62. However, Shizukuishi does not disclose or suggest an accumulation period and a discharge period. Thus, Shizukuishi does not disclose or suggest an insulated-gate clear transistor that discharges, during a discharging period, the carriers accumulated in the accumulation region and that discharges, during an accumulation period, spilled carriers that exceed a capacity of the accumulation region, the accumulation period being a time period in which carriers are accumulated in the accumulation region up to the capacity of the accumulation region, as recited in independent claims 1-3. Hence, Shizukuishi does not supply the subject matter lacking in Dierickx and Miida.

For at least double reasons, Dierickx, Miida and Shizukuishi, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-3. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Translation Priority Document JP 2003-062820

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